

In the claims:

1                   1. (Amended) A device for detecting particles on a windshield  
2                   a motor vehicle with a radiation source which emits optical rays onto the  
3                   windshield with a photodetector which receives a portion of the rays emitted onto  
4                   the windshield, and with a control unit, which manages the radiation source and  
5                   analyzes the rays received by the photodetector characterized in that the  
6                   radiation source is positioned outside the field of vision of a driver of the vehicle  
7                   and is aligned in such a way that the light rays from the radiation source strike  
8                   the windshield in the area of the field of vision, and that the photodetector is  
9                   pointed at the area of the windshield which the optical rays from the radiation  
10                  source strike.

1                   2. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
2                   the radiation source is formed as a light-emitting-diode.

1                   3. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
2                   the photodetector includes several receiving units.

1                   4. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 3, wherein  
2                   the receiving units are formed as optoelectronic arrays.

1                   5. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 3, wherein  
2                   means are located in the direction of propagation of the beams reflected from  
3                   the particles in front of the receiving units for focusing the beams.

1                   6. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 5, wherein  
2                   the means for focusing the beams are formed as lenses.

1                   7. (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
2                   the radiation source emits optical rays with a wavelength of about 350 nm to 800  
3                   nm.

1                   8.       (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
2       the radiation source emits optical rays with a wavelength in the infrared range.

1                   9.       (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
2       the control unit manages the radiation source in such a way that the type of  
3       particles can be determined from the rays received by the photodetector.

1                   10.      (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
2       the control unit analyzes the rays received by the detector so that the type of  
3       particles can be determined.

1                   11.      (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
2       the device is an integral part of an interior light module in the vehicle.

3                   12.      (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
4       the device is an integral part of a rearview mirror module in the vehicle.

5                   13.      (Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
6       the device is connected over a bidirectional data bus to a superordinate control  
7       unit in the vehicle.